



## **TWIN FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT #411**

### **American Rescue Plan: 2021-2022 Safe Return to School**

## **Introduction**

In the summer of 2020, the Twin Falls School District #411 convened the HEAL Taskforce to create a return to school plan for the 2020-2021 school year. This plan was created with the help of dozens of stakeholders and with the assistance of the South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) and St. Luke's Magic Valley. In addition, a community survey was utilized to gain additional feedback. The finalized plan was revised throughout the year based on the changing recommendations of the CDC and the SCPHD.

**Updated....**In March of 2021 a new community survey was completed. Thousands of community members representing numerous stakeholders took part and provided data and written feedback. Based on feedback, changing recommendations of the CDC, as well as the low number of COVID-19 cases in our schools and community, the plan below outlines the updated protocols for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. As is required by law, this plan will be reviewed at least every six (6) months. This review will include an opportunity for stakeholder (community, staff, student, etc.) consultation and input.

## **Updates to TFSD #411 Operational COVID Protocols**

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY STRATEGIES**

**Face Coverings:** Properly fitting face coverings are recommended (optional) for all staff, students, and visitors (CDC recommendation) when indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained. The COVID-19 vaccine is not required or tracked by the TFSD for staff or students.

**PPE:** Each school has access to disposable masks available in the office for use by staff, students, and patrons electing to utilize a face covering. It is the recommendation of the CDC that a properly fitting mask be utilized in school by all individuals when indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing



cannot be maintained. Plexiglass barriers will continue to be utilized in high contact areas and at the request of staff and/or students.

**Hygiene:** Hand sanitizer will be made readily available throughout the school. Each classroom and office is supplied with mounted dispensers for hand sanitizer. Posters communicating the importance of hygiene (handwashing and respiratory etiquette) will be displayed and communicated.

**Social Distancing:** Staff will maximize social distancing within classrooms and other building spaces (gym, cafeteria, auditoriums, etc.) to the greatest extent possible. CDC recommends maintaining 3 feet of physical distance between students.

**Symptomatic students/staff:** Any student or staff member displaying symptoms of COVID-19 will be excluded from school and all school related activities for 10 days. Symptomatic individuals may return early with a negative COVID-19 test and no longer have symptoms of COVID.

**COVID Positive/Presumed Positive:** Students and staff who are COVID-19 positive/presumed positive will be excluded from school and all school related activities for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. Students/staff may return after 10 days and fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

**COVID-19 Exposure:** Contact tracing will identify students and staff who are considered exposed to COVID-19. Those identified as exposed will be contacted by the school and provided with information explaining the CDC recommendations regarding quarantining and monitoring for symptoms. Exposed individuals who remain at school are to be monitored for symptoms by staff and guardians. Anyone developing symptoms will be sent home (see symptomatic students/staff).

**COVID-19 Testing:** The TFSD will continue to utilize school nurses, as well as the SCPHD, for COVID-19 testing. This will be made available each week to staff as well as parents desiring to have their child(ren) tested for COVID-19.



**School Cleaning:** Extra attention will be given to the cleaning of buildings with products approved to kill the COVID-19 virus. Each building in the district will have an additional custodian whose job it will be to continually clean surfaces during the school day. In addition air filters will be upgraded to improve air quality/ventilation.

**Communications Plan:** Parents/guardians will be notified of known exposures to COVID-19. In addition, new guidelines and recommendations will be shared with students, staff, and parents through the use of our mass communication system, signage within buildings, use of district social media, and other means of communication to stakeholders.

**Immunization:** The COVID-19 vaccine is not required or tracked by the TFSD. Parents/guardians and staff will be made aware of opportunities for immunization against COVID-19. Onsite clinics may also be utilized. The TFSD will continue to partner with the South Central Public Health District to communicate updates and recommendations regarding COVID-19 vaccinations.

### **Continuity of services**

**In-Person Option:** The TFSD will maintain face-to-face instruction to the greatest extent possible utilizing the health and safety strategies outlined above designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Schools will operate educational services in a regular fashion whenever feasible. This includes maintaining open campuses for in-person learning five days a week (as outlined in the TFSD school year calendar), except in instances of emergencies.

<https://www.tfsd.org/school-start-and-end-times/>

<https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/tfsd-multisite/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/09113057/2021-2022-District-Calendar-BOARD-APPROVED-2-8-21.pdf>

**Full Remote Option:** parents/guardians who desire a fully remote option for their child(ren) will be able to access courses via the Twin Falls School District through the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (K-12) as well as Venture Upward (K-8).



**Continuity of Education:** During times students are out of school with sickness or exposure, students will be able to continue in their coursework through the use of a distance learning platform as was made available during the 2020-2021 school year. This includes the use of a learning management system allowing students to continue with their schoolwork remotely. Educators will be encouraged to provide students with support in these instances. These supports may include and are not limited to videos of lessons, recorded tutorials, videos created by other educators on the content, packets of work, or interactive digital activities.

**Special Education:** IEP teams will ensure student needs are met in both face-to-face and virtual settings. Special education teachers and general education teachers will partner to ensure all IEP components are met. Unique circumstances resulting from COVID-19 will be addressed in partnership with parents in order to meet the needs of the student. These unique circumstances will be communicated with all impacted employees including those involved in transporting students.

**2020-2021:**

<https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/tfsd-multisite/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/15081929/HEAL-Plan-for-Special-Services-6.pdf>

**Digital Access:** All students will have access to a device to take home to complete work remotely when excluded. In addition, the district will have access to Hotspots which parents and staff can check out for internet access during times they are excluded from school due to COVID-19, if they are in need.

**Student/Family Support:** School counselors will be available to students who need assistance with social, emotional, and/or mental health. Counselors will make available a variety of community resources for parents in support of their child. The counselors have provided web pages with resources at all schools so that parents can easily find and utilize community support options. Counselors will also work with staff on schoolwide programs designed to assist students. These programs may include peer support programs, such as Sources of Strength, referral for counseling services both on and off campus, and social emotional wellness education programs.



Students and their families will have access to the Student and Family Assistance Program (SFAP) through BPA Health. This program provides students and their families with five (5) free consultations per incident, per year with an expert regarding impairments related to health, marital, family, financial, alcohol, drug, legal, emotional, stress or other personal concerns that may adversely affect the student's academic performance. In addition, students and their families will have access to a 24-Hour Hotline for issues needing immediate attention.

**Staff Support:** The Employee Assistance Program will be utilized to assist any staff member who needs assistance with social, emotional, and/or mental health. For the 2021-2022 school year, the number of free visits has been increased from three (3) visits per incident to ten (10). In addition staff will be notified of programs and other opportunities designed to assist staff with individual needs during difficult times.

Employees who need leave due to COVID-19 related reasons will have access to medical and personal leave as outlined in FMLA, Board Policy, and the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

## **Plan Review**

This plan will be reviewed and revised at least every six (6) months and will include a process for stakeholder input (i.e. survey, community committee, etc.). The next review will be complete before January 10, 2022. Timing of the review will be related to the health conditions within TFSD schools.